

qualify for hospital and medical insurance if you are aged, disabled, or have chronic kidney disease.

§ 404.303 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

Apply means to sign a form or statement that the Social Security Administration accepts as an application for benefits under the rules set out in subpart G.

Eligible means that a person would meet all the requirements for entitlement to benefits for a period of time but has not yet applied.

Entitled means that a person has applied and has proven his or her right to benefits for a period of time.

Insured person or the insured means someone who has enough earnings under social security to permit payment of benefits on his or her earnings record. The requirements for becoming insured are described in subpart B.

Permanent home means the true and fixed home (legal domicile) of a person. It is the place to which a person intends to return whenever he or she is absent.

Primary insurance amount means an amount that is determined from the average monthly earnings creditable to the insured person. This term and the manner in which it is computed are explained in subpart C.

We or Us means the Social Security Administration.

You means the person who has applied for benefits or the person for whom someone else has applied.

§ 404.304 General rules on benefit amounts.

This subpart describes how the highest monthly benefit amount you ordinarily could qualify for under each type of benefit is determined. However, the highest monthly benefit amount you could qualify for may not be the amount that you actually are paid each month. In a particular month, your benefit amount may be reduced or not paid at all. Under some circumstances, your benefit amount may be increased. The most common reasons for a change in the amount of your benefit payments are listed below:

(a) *Reductions based on age or earnings.* As explained in §§ 404.410 through

404.413, your old-age, wife's, husband's, widow's, or widower's benefits may be reduced if you choose to receive them before age 65. Also, as explained in §§ 404.415 through 404.417, deductions may be made from your benefits if your earnings or the insured person's earnings go over certain limits.

(b) *Overpayments and underpayments.* Your benefits may be increased or decreased for a time to make up for any previous overpayment or underpayment that was made on the insured person's record. For more information about this, see subpart F.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) *Family maximum.* As explained in § 404.403, there is a maximum amount set for each insured person's earnings record that limits the total benefits payable on that record. If you are entitled to benefits as the insured's dependent or survivor, your benefits may be reduced to keep total benefits payable to the insured's family within these limits.

(e) *Government pension offset.* If you are entitled to wife's, husband's, mother's, father's, widow's or widower's benefits and receive a Government pension for work that was not covered under social security, your benefits may be reduced by the amount of that pension. Special age 72 payments are also reduced by the amount of a Government pension. For more information about this, see § 404.408(a) which covers benefits and § 404.384(c) which covers special age 72 payments.

(f) *Rounding.* After all other deductions or reductions, any monthly benefit which is not a multiple of \$1 is reduced to the next lower multiple of \$1.

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§ 404.305 When you may not be entitled to benefits.

In addition to the situations described in § 404.304 when you may not receive a benefit payment, there are special circumstances when you may not be entitled to benefits. These circumstances are—

(a) *Waiver of benefits.* If you have waived benefits and been granted a tax exemption on religious grounds as described in §§ 404.1039 and 404.1075, no one may become entitled to any benefits or